

**Columbia County
Board of Commissioners**

Multi Way Stop Requests

The first order of action would be to fill out a sign request. Using the sign request, an on-site visit would be made to determine if the location would meet any of the warrants for a multi way stop as contained within the *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, 2001 edition, published by The Federal Highway Administration. A brief summary of the warrants are as follows:

Warrant 1: where traffic signals are warranted and urgently needed

The multi way stop is an interim measure.

Warrant 2: accident history .

A minimum of five accidents of a type susceptible of correction by a multi-way stop installation in a 12-month period. This would be left and right turn collisions as well as right angle collisions.

Warrant 3: Minimum traffic volumes.

- (a) The total vehicular volume entering the intersection must average at least 500 vehicles per hour for any 8 hours of an average day, **and**
- (b) The combined vehicle and pedestrian volumes from the minor street(s) must average at least 200 units per hour for the same 8 hour period, with an average delay to minor street vehicular traffic of at least 30 seconds per vehicle during the maximum hour, but
- (c) If the 85th percentile of the major approaching street exceeds 40 MPH, the minimum vehicular warrant is 70% of the above requirements.

The vast majority of requests do not meet these minimum warrants!

During the field visit, it is determined if the traffic volumes are of a sufficient amount to warrant the placement of 24 hour traffic counters, for an accurate determination of volumes.

A search is done of the accident records for the previous 12 months to determine if the criteria for Warrant 2 is met.

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners, as the local governing authority, is not limited to the warrants for a multi way stop, as contained within the *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, 2001 edition, published by The Federal Highway Administration. The Columbia County Board of Commissioners may approve the placements of multi way stops, at their discretion.

Members of the neighborhood in question may petition the Board of Commissioners for the placement of multi way stops in their neighborhood. The petition should contain:

- 1) The reasons for desiring the installation of a multi way stop(s)
- 2) An accurate description of where the multi way stop(s) is desired
- 3) The signatures and addresses of the homeowners in the neighborhood

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The completed petitions should be forwarded to the Engineering Services Division. Upon receipt of the petition, staff members determine the percentage of homeowners who signed the petition, versus the number of homes along the roadways in question.

A memo is then prepared for the Public Works Committee, describing the request, the information gathered from the initial sign request (i.e. did it meet the warrants), copy of the petition, and a recommendation. Normally, staff will recommend approval if there was at least 75% approval from the property owners along the roadways in question.

If the PWC approves, it is then placed on the consent agenda of the next Board of Commissioners meeting.